

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A method for processing invoices, comprising the steps
- 2 of:
 - 3 preparing an invoice image;
 - 4 storing said invoice image in an image store;
 - 5 keying said image to invoice data;
 - 6 communicating invoice confirmation request to a
 - 7 requester, said request including said invoice data and
 - 8 a link to said invoice image;
 - 9 responsive to requester selection of said link,
 - 10 displaying said invoice image.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
3 invoices received from a vendor.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

2 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
3 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
4 image file representation having the look and feel of a
5 paper invoice.

1 4. The method of claim 1, said invoice confirmation
2 request advising said requester to process said confirmation
3 as negative confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 5. The method of claim 4, said invoice confirmation
2 request further advising said requester to log on to a
3 front- end requisition and catalog server to view invoices
4 for confirmation.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step
2 responsive to said requester logging on to said front-end
3 server of displaying a list of invoices awaiting
4 confirmation and responsive to user selection of a selected
5 invoice, presenting images of invoices corresponding to
6 links selected by said requester.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of
2 presenting to said requester an interface for selecting
3 images of invoices matching a selection criteria.

1 8. A method for processing invoices, comprising the steps
2 of:

3 selectively executing a positive confirmation process
4 or a negative confirmation process;

5 said confirmation processes including communicating to
6 a user browser an image of said invoice to be approved,
7 said image selectively resulting from scanning a paper
8 invoice, or from converting an electronic invoice, into
9 an image file.

1 9. A system for processing invoices, comprising:

2 a front-end requisition and catalog system;

3 a back-end procurement services system;

4 a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

5 an image system and store for storing said scanned
6 images and serving them to said workstation keyed to
7 said invoice;

8 a workstation selectively receiving user entry of a
9 requisition request, receiving confirmation requests,
10 and viewing images of invoices from said image system
11 and store;

12 said front-end system selectively receiving requisition
13 requests from said workstation, forwarding said
14 requisition requests to said back-end system, and
15 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end
16 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

17 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase
18 orders against said requisitions, receiving and
19 processing invoices, keying invoice images to invoice
20 information, and processing confirmation requests to
21 said front-end system for communication to said
22 workstation.

1 10. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for processing invoices,
4 said method steps comprising:
5 preparing an invoice image;
6 storing said invoice image in an image store;
7 keying said image to invoice data;
8 communicating invoice confirmation request to a
9 requester, said request including said invoice data and
10 a link to said invoice image;

11 responsive to requester selection of said link,
12 displaying said invoice image.

1 11. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for processing invoices according to steps comprising:

3 preparing an invoice image;

4 storing said invoice image in an image store;

5 keying said image to invoice data;

6 communicating invoice confirmation request to a
7 requester, said request including said invoice data and
8 a link to said invoice image;

9 responsive to requester selection of said link,
10 displaying said invoice image.